



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Soldiers of the 33rd Light Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Georgian Army salute their colors as their national anthem plays during a ceremony on Forward Operating Base Union I to honor their independence day May 26.

Infantry Battalion of Georgian Troops Commemorate their Independence Day

**By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE UNION I, Iraq - The Republic of Georgia has been around for as many as 2,600 years. Although its history is rich with tradition, Georgia hasn't always been able to call itself a free country until May 26, 1918 when it broke apart from the Trans-Caucasus Commissariat.

To celebrate their 89 years of independence, soldiers from the 33rd Light Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Georgian

Army, stationed in Baghdad's "International Zone" held a ceremony and feast to honor their country's independence that their fellow countrymen had fought for in the past.

Hundreds of soldiers lined up amongst humvees and even a tank that the previous unit had refurbished. During the national anthem, Tavisupleba (Liberty), the Georgian flag was unfurled as several distinguished guests were on hand, including Col. Bryan Roberts, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Division - Baghdad and

the 1st Cavalry Division.

During his speech, the battalion commander, Maj. Nikoloz Ikoshvili, remarked of the honor and integrity of being a Georgian fighting for his country's freedom and how important it was for him and his soldiers to be in Iraq helping the Iraqi people.

Dozens of certificates and plaques were handed out to guests and soldiers of the battalion for recognition of

see **Liberation** Page 2

Iraqi, Coalition Forces Respond to Rashid Suicide Car Bomb

By Maj. Kirk Luedeke
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD- Iraqi Army and coalition forces responded to a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that detonated in the western Rashid section of the Iraqi capital at approximately 2:45 p.m., May 29.

Iraqi Security Forces and coalition

troops arrived at a Shia mosque in Amel that was reportedly attacked by an individual driving a white Honda.

Iraqi emergency services evacuated the wounded to local hospitals and put out several fires on site.

"We are saddened by the loss of innocent lives and condemn this barbaric act

perpetrated by terrorists," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"We will work closely with our Iraqi Security Force partners to bring those responsible to justice in accordance with Iraqi laws," he added.

The incident is under investigation.



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Col. Bryan Roberts, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, cuts a ceremonial cake with Maj. Nikoloz Ikoshvili, commander of the 33rd Light Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Georgian Army, as distinguished guests look on following a ceremony marking Georgia's independence May 26.

Georgian Soldiers Celebrate 89th Year of Independence

Liberation

From Page 1

achievements or support of ongoing operations done by the battalion.

After the ceremony, all guests were invited into the palace to dine on traditional Georgian cuisine and local fare.

Several toasts were made by the battalion commander, the battalion's sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Manuchar Davituri, Fil and Roberts.

"You are doing your country

a great service," Fil said. "Your fellow soldiers and families back home should be proud of what you are doing here in Iraq."

The battalion of infantrymen had recently replaced the Bat' Umi Battalion after the tank battalion stayed on the base and worked in the heavily-guarded International Zone for more than six months.

The battalion's main role is to guard several entry points to the International Zone, as well as man its embassy.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

taariikh

Defined:
history

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 108
Low: 80



Tomorrow

High: 110
Low: 78



Friday

High: 110
Low: 78

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21 Guns Recall 61 Lives

Dagger Brigade Remembers Their Fallen at Service

By Capt. David Levasseur
2-1 Inf. Public Affairs Officer

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Twenty-one shots rang clearly through the warm interior of the chapel. The shots were immediately followed by the long, somber notes of 'Taps,' which marked a solemn end to the ceremony memorializing the 61 Soldiers and one interpreter from the 14 task force formations associated with the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division who have died during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

"Today, we pause along with all Americans for a moment to honor our fallen, whose personal investment in their nation's freedom allow our citizens to realize the ideals that define what it means to be an American," said Colonel J.B. Burton, commander of the Dagger Brigade. "These fallen Warriors represent us all. They represent the very few of our great nation who have stood up and stepped forward to defend our Nation against all enemies, at any cost," he continued.

Burton stood beside a gleaming white, three piece wall inscribed in stark black



(Photos by Sgt. Lance Wail, 2-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

Col. J. B. Burton and Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune, the commander and senior non-commissioned officer for the 2nd "Dagger" BCT, 1st Infantry Division from Schweinfurt, Germany, take a moment to reflect after laying a wreath at the base of the new Dagger Memorial Wall presented at a Memorial Day service at Camp Liberty, Iraq May 28.

block lettering with the names of the 61 Soldiers and one interpreter who were killed in action while assigned or attached to the Dagger brigade since September 2006.

The wall, which now stands guard to the entrance to the brigade headquarters building here, is a duplicate of the one being constructed in Schweinfurt, Germany the Dagger Brigade's home sta-

tion.

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team deployed one battalion task force in August 2006 and followed with the remainder of the brigade in September last year. The headquarters of the nearly 5,000-Soldier BCT is currently responsible for northwestern Baghdad.

The Dagger Brigade was deployed in the Salah ah Din region of Iraq, 60 miles north of Baghdad in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

During his remarks Burton reminded his listeners, "...Let us remember that our mission here is vital. It is for keeps and we - our nation's warriors collectively hold the line - out front, and far away to protect

our families, our future, and what we - as Americans - believe in."

After a roll call of the fallen members of the brigade, Burton and his senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune, laid a wreath at the base of the wall and stood stiffly at attention as an honor guard fired the 21-gun salute into the morning sky.

The commander's final message still hung in the air, "...Let us give thanks. Thanks that our nation produces patriots such as these.

"Let us pray for their families and friends, and let us ask only that the souls of these Soldiers be welcomed as heroes and posted in over watch of us all, as we continue our mission here."



Fallen Heroes for a Cause

Apache Soldiers Find a Moment to Remember

**By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs**

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry "Warrior" Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, honored the sacrifices of heroes, both past and present, during a Memorial Day ceremony May 28.

The troopers from the 4th "Guns" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, gathered together at their headquarters to commemorate the service members who bravely served before them, said Ballston Spa, N.Y., native 1st Sgt. J.D. Sellers, the acting command sergeant major for 4-227th.

"It's a time to remember and celebrate the sacrifices our heroes have made before us, what they dedicated their lives to and what they chose to represent for the nation. They made the ultimate sacrifice for us," he said.

The Soldiers also took time to learn the history of Memorial Day, its origin

dating back to the year 1866, but first officially observed May 30, 1868.

The Guns Battalion then reflected on the sacrifices that their pilots made January 28, 2007, said Orlando, Fla., native Lt. Col. Timothy DeVito, the battalion commander.

"Especially today, in this battalion, we remember the heroes closest to us - Mister Chow and Captain Resh. We (also) remember their families and friends who knew them and loved them best," he said.

Capt. Mark Resh and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cornell Chao, both AH-64D Apache attack helicopter pilots, perished in battle January 28, 2007, while protecting their wingman in An Najaf.

"We just use this as an opportunity to reflect on their sacrifice and honor their memory by continuing to serve as they served and live the Warrior Ethos like they lived it and demonstrated it for us," DeVito said.

The Guns commander reminded his

Soldiers to not only remember those who have served before them, but to never forget those Soldiers who are currently missing in Iraq.

"We remember our Soldiers whose whereabouts are unknown. We will never quit searching, and we will never leave them behind," he said.

DeVito said he wants his Soldiers to take more from Memorial Day than just a ceremony; he wants them to learn from those whose sacrifices paved the way to the freedoms they enjoy today.

"(Memorial Day) is also for the current generation of Soldiers to reflect upon. (To reflect on) not only what past generations have done, but what our fallen heroes have sacrificed for. Then, to commit ourselves to serving in their memory - using their example to make us better Soldiers," he said.

The ceremony ended with a moment of silence for their comrades who have fallen in battle and those service members who fell in battle before them.



(Photo by Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Silent Remembrance

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team" pray during a Memorial Day prayer luncheon, commemorating the lives of those military service members who have died in service to their country, May 28 at Camp Taji, Iraq.